REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 14, 1997 on the parent application, claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19 are rejected. Claims 1,

5   2, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gallagher, U.S. Patent 5, 311, 461 (Gallagher). Claims 3, 9, 12, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §·103 as being unpatentable over Gallagher in view of Davidson et al., U.S. Patent 4, 893, 234 (Davidson), or Kumar et al., U.S. Patent 5, 197, 137 (Kumar). In response to the above-

10 identified Office Action, Applicants hereby file a Continuation Application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) accompanied by this Preliminary Amendment, and respectfully request consideration thereof.

Applicants respectfully note that in the Amendment and Response to Office Action filed June 18, 1997 for the parent application, the application was

15 amended to add new claim 20. Thus, claims 1-20 are currently pending in the Continuation Application.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gallagher. Gallagher discloses using a tree structure priority for resolving conflicting requests for resources. The tree structure

20 consists of pods residing in priority circuitry that can select between two to four resources. Relative priority between resources is represented by a priority code. Each pod comprises a priority circuit (Figure 3, element 19; Figure 4) that is controlled by a programmable set having rotational direction, skip and source identification bits. Each pod is controlled with a priority code

25 that includes a number of bits of data from two up to five bits: two bits for a two-source pod, three for a three-source pod and five bits for a four-source pod where each source is given a code. One of these codes is placed in a pod

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as the first two bits of data controlling the pod's priority; the source whose code is placed there will have the highest priority. If this source has a request, it will be processed independent of what the other sources have as a request (column 2, lines 13-29). The priority scheme implemented by the pods

5   disclosed in Gallagher is implemented in priority circuitry that is separate from the resources it controls (column 3, lines 30-33).

Regarding claim 1, the priority scheme implemented by the pods disclosed in Gallagher is implemented in priority circuitry that is separate from the resources it controls. Therefore, each pod of Gallagher comprises

10   only a priority circuit having circuitry for controlling the priority of requests from different processors. As such, Gallagher fails to disclose a sequence of modules linked to one another wherein each module of said sequence of modules comprises at least one digital signal processing data structure. Thus, as Gallagher fails to disclose the claimed invention, amended claim 1 is

15   distinguishable over Gallagher. As amended claims 10, 16, and 17 contain similar limitations to claim 1, amended claims 10, 16, and 17 are distinguishable over Gallagher. As claims 2, 7, 8, 11, and 13-15 depend from amended claims 1 and 10, claims 2, 7, 8, 11, 13-15 are distinguished over Gallagher.

20   Claims 3, 9, 12, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gallagher in view of Davidson or Kumar. Davidson and Kumar both fail to disclose a sequence of modules linked to one another wherein each module of said sequence of modules comprises at least one digital signal processing data structure. As amended claims 9, 18, and 19

25   contain similar limitations to amended claim 1, amended claims 9, 18, and 19 are distinguished over Gallagher in view of Davidson or Kumar for the same reasons stated above with respect to amended claim 1. As claim 3 depends

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from amended claim 1, claim 3 is distinguished over Gallagher. As claim 12

depends from amended claim 10, claim 12 is distinguished over Gallagher.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No.
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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 1/14, 1998

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